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Letter dated 15 October 2003 from the Permanent Representative of Italy to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to draw your attention to the declaration by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union on the massacres in the province of Ituri in the Democratic Republic of the Congo published on 13 October 2003 (see annex).

I would be grateful if the text of the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Marcello **Spatafora**
Permanent Representative of Italy to the United Nations

03-57053 (E) 201003

Annex to the letter dated 15 October 2003 from the Permanent Representative of Italy to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: English and French]

Declaration by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union on the massacres in the province of Ituri in the Democratic Republic of the Congo

The European Union firmly condemns the renewed massacres in Ituri, on Monday, 6 October 2003, in the village of Katchele. These events, which add to the enormous suffering already sustained by the local populations, demonstrate the persistence of elements opposing the peace process in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, despite the progress made in recent months.

The European Union confirms its very strong support for the peace process and its determination to ensure that the perpetrators of these massacres do not go unpunished. In this connection, the European Union notes the decision of the International Criminal Court to examine the investigations into the events in Ituri.

The European Union calls on the States in the region to cooperate fully with the transitional Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo in its task of restoring order and the authority of the State throughout the territory, and in its eastern provinces in particular. The European Union attaches great importance to the strict observance of Security Council resolution 1493 (2003), which, inter alia, invites all States to take the necessary measures to prevent the direct or indirect supply of arms to armed groups operating in the eastern provinces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo that are not party to the Global and All-Inclusive Agreement.

The European Union encourages the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo to continue its peacekeeping efforts in Ituri, in the wake of Operation Artemis, and notes with satisfaction the full deployment of the Ituri Brigade.

The acceding countries Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia, the associated countries Bulgaria, Romania and Turkey and the European Free Trade Association countries members of the European Economic Area align themselves with this declaration.